



Sovereign Grace Church

April 7th, 2024

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

(Joshua 1:9)

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THEOLOGY didn't give it's life as a ransom to redeem God's people, doctrines didn't shed any blood for the remission of sins. Beloved, taught of God, you know this—salvation is found by those who have, by God's quickening power, been made to *know* Him! All God's people can say with their brother, the apostle Paul “... *I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.*” (2 Timothy 1:12)

All faithful ministers, men sent of God, preach Christ Jesus the Lord; they don't preach themselves—they are not men pleasers—rather, they are your servants for Jesus sake [2 Corinthians 4:5, Galatians 1:10].

LORD, enable your servants to open their mouths, and preach unto your people—JESUS [Acts 8:35]. Grant us your enabling grace to be such a one as Epaphras, a faithful minister and fellow-servant in the Lord; for without you we can do nothing [Colossians 4:7, John 15:5].

— JDM

Welcome

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect church, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's *undeserved* grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

Announcements

Happy Birthday!

Pat Maddux, April 7th

Resources

VISIT our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

The Three R's

“... *Ye must be born again.*” (John 3:7)

I REMEMBER an old friend of mine once saying, “Ah! you preach the three R's, and God will always bless you.” I said, “What are the three R's?” and he answered, “Ruin, redemption, and regeneration.” They contain the sum and substance of divinity. R. for ruin. We were all ruined in the fall; we were all lost when Adam sinned, and we are all ruined by our own transgressions; we are all ruined by our own evil hearts, and our own wicked wills; and we all shall be ruined, unless grace saves us. Then there is a second R. for redemption. We are ransomed by the blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish and without spot; we are rescued by His power; we are ransomed by His merits; we are redeemed by His strength. Then there is R. for regeneration. If we would be pardoned, we must also be regenerated; for no man can partake of redemption unless he is regenerate. Let him be as good as he pleases; let him serve God, as he imagines, as much as he likes; unless he is regenerate, and has a new heart, a new birth, he will still be in the first R. that is ruin. These things contain an epitome of the gospel. I believe there is a better epitome in the five points of Calvinism:—Election according to the fore knowledge of God; the natural depravity and sinfulness of man; particular redemption by the blood of Christ; effectual calling by the power of the Spirit; and ultimate perseverance by the efforts of God's might. I think all those need to be believed, in order to salvation.

— Charles Spurgeon

‘Three Third Chapters’

(Genesis 3, Romans 3, John 3)

THERE are three third chapters which deal with [the Three R's] in the fullest manner. The third of Genesis reveals Ruin; the third of Romans teaches Redemption; the third of John sets forth Regeneration. Will our young friends be so good as to read those chapters through with care, at home? It is also worthy of mention that not only do each of these chapters teach its own R, but that it also teaches the other two R's. In this third of Genesis we have not only Ruin, but we have the Redeemer in *“the seed of the woman,”* and we have Regeneration in the expression, *“I will put enmity between thee and the woman.”* God's regenerating power creates a hatred of evil in the chosen seed. The same you will find in the other chapters; for the third of the Romans contains a fearful description of the sin and ruin of men; and in the third of John, after you have read, *“Ye must be born again,”* not far from it you find it written, *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilder-ness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but have eternal life.”* Believe any of these great truths, and the rest follow as a necessary consequence. May we be helped...to learn something with regard to Ruin, Redemption, and Regeneration, from the [word of God].

— Charles Spurgeon

Accept or Receive?

“...as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:” (John 1:12)

Nowhere in the word of God do we find most common religious catchphrase — ‘accept Jesus as your personal savior.’ Nowhere does it say that the Lord of all the universe is up for acceptance or rejection by mere mortals. Nowhere does it say that the sovereign Creator of all things needs to be accepted by the creature.

You see—We are on trial—Not God! We are the ones that will be either *accepted* or *rejected*, according to the will and pleasure of Him who made us. It is God that must accept us *‘in the beloved.’* Accepting something or someone implies ability to accept or reject. Man, who is dead in sins, cannot accept but only reject that which is true and good. *‘The natural man receiveth not the things of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he...’* (1 Corinthians 2:14).

The Scriptures do however, speak of us receiving Christ (John 1:12-13). But there is a big difference in receiving something and accepting it. Receiving implies that a gift has been bestowed upon you. The gift of God’s grace in Christ is unmerited favor bestowed upon you. All to whom God grants this unspeakable gift are made willing in the day of His power to receive it [Psalm 110:3]. They are made to see the irresistible beauty of Christ, and their desperate need of Him, and humbly and gladly receive Him. Even their calling upon Him, and asking for Him, are God’s gracious gifts [Romans 2:4]. One cannot glory in receiving a gift, for even our receiving we have received; for *‘a man can receive nothing except it be given him from above’* (John 3:27). The glass cannot glory for receiving the water that is poured into it.

Those who say they have accepted Jesus do not know and have not received the Lord Jesus Christ, and are not saved. For that is not the language of scripture nor of any child of God. The language of scripture and the testimony of every child of God is this: “We have received mercy and grace from our God through the Lord Jesus Christ.” [AMEN!]

— Paul Mahan

‘Lord, we believe, help our unbelief!’

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

LORD, teach us what the word “everything” means. It would be very easy for us, in our sinful and doubtful flesh, to insert the words “some things” into that verse. In some things, we do give thanks. In most things however, we don’t. Usually, we murmur over things, we complain over things, we question things, and we try our hardest to change things. We do this because our sinfully blind eyes do not see the hand of the Lord in it. We do this because, sinfully, we are not trusting that He is doing right in it. We do this because, sinfully, we are doubtful that good will come from it. Lord, we believe, help our unbelief! [Mark 9:24] Teach us to have a single eye on You, and Your perfect purpose, and Your all knowing, all controlling, sovereign will. Teach us that everything is being done by You, through You, to You. Therefore, EVERYTHING is for Your glory and our good. If we could truly see that... in everything, we would give thanks! [AMEN!]

— Gabe Stalnaker